IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 24 and 54 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 21, 23, 25, 27, 51, 53, 55, 57 and 64, and add new Claim 65 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:
reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to a directory, each
of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate
characteristics of the content data;

extracting common text data forming common meta-data from the multiple kinds of meta-data included in the data files read in said reading step;

generating a new directory for the data files;

generating <u>new</u> directory meta-data for the <u>new</u> directory by using the common text data extracted in said extracting step; and

attaching the <u>new</u> directory meta-data generated in said generating step to the <u>new</u> directory.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein:

when in said searching step there is no common text data, the <u>new</u> directory

meta-data for the <u>new</u> directory is generated based on text data forming meta-data included in

most of the data files belonging to the <u>new</u> directory.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of:

generating <u>another</u> [[a]] new directory, <u>and recording therein for</u> data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include the common text data used in the <u>new</u> directory meta-data generated in said first generating step.

- 26. (Previously presented) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein: each data file includes image data, audio data, or dynamic image data.
- 27. (Currently amended) The method set forth in claim 21, wherein: in said attaching step, the <u>new directory</u> meta-data generated in said generating step is appended to the end of the <u>new directory</u> data.

28. to 50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) A data processing device comprising:

reading means for reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to a directory, each of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate characteristics the content data;

extracting means for extracting common text data forming common meta-data, from the multiple kinds of meta-data included in the data files;

generating means for generating <u>a new</u> directory <u>meta-data</u> for the <u>data files</u>, and <u>generating new</u> directory <u>meta-data for the new directory</u> by using <u>a</u> the common text data extracted by said extracting means; and

attaching means for attaching the <u>new</u> directory meta-data generated by said generating means to the <u>new</u> directory.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein when said searching means finds no common text data, said generating means generates the <u>new</u> directory meta-data based on text data forming meta-data item included in most of the data files belonging to the <u>new</u> directory.

54. (Canceled)

- 55. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, further comprising: second recording means for generating another [[a]] new directory [[and]] for recording therein data files to which are attached meta-data which does not include the common text data used in the new directory meta-data generated by said generating means.
 - 56. (Previously presented) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein: each data file includes image data, audio data, or dynamic image data.
- 57. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 51, wherein: said attaching means appends the <u>new</u> directory meta-data generated by said generating means to the end of the <u>new</u> directory data.

58. to 63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently amended) A <u>computer-readable</u> memory medium storing a control program to be executed by a computer, said control program comprising code for performing the steps of:

reading multiple kinds of meta-data from data files belonging to an indicated directory, each of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate characteristics of the content data;

extracting common text data forming common meta-data included in the data files, from the multiple kinds of meta-data;

generating a new directory for the data files;

generating <u>new</u> directory meta-data for the <u>new</u> directory by using the common text data in said extracting step; and

attaching the <u>new</u> meta-data generated in said generating step to the <u>new</u> directory.

65. (New) A data processing device comprising:

a reading unit adapted to read multiple kinds of meta-data from data files, each of the data files having both content data and meta-data formed by text data to indicate characteristics of the content data; and

a processing unit adapted to extract common text data from multiple kinds of meta-data included in the data files, to generate a new directory for the data files, and new directory meta-data for the new directory by using the extracted common text data, and to attach the generated new directory meta-data to the new directory.